

the Bridge

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Connecting the People of Beaver County

SUMMER 2011

INSIDE:

Beaver's Fort McIntosh
Beaver County Community Development Program
The What's and Why's of Beaver County GIS



Summer Time Festivals

This is a sampling of Beaver County's festivals and special events held throughout the summer for all to enjoy! All of these events are family-oriented, so load up the kids and get out and enjoy these wonderful historical, cultural and ethnic celebrations. The dates listed were current at publication, but we recommend you contact the event or click **VisitBeaverCounty.com** for the latest information.

June 27-July 4 - 6th Annual Summer Gallery Art Exhibit 2011

Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, Midland. The exhibit represents more than 40 artists and shows over 100 pieces of art. Artists from Pennsylvania, Ohio and various other states are represented. This year's featured artist is Bruce Shakely. This is a juried show. Hours: 5-8 P.M. Mon., July 4th, noon-9 P.M. Call 724/643-9968 or click midlandartscouncil.com for more information.

July 1-4 - Midland's 4th of July Celebration

Lincoln Park, Midland Avenue, Midland. Carnival both days includes food booths, crafts games and live entertainment every day. Parade on Mon., July 4th, beginning at 10 A.M., on Midland Avenue. Carnival Fri., Sat and Sun., 4-10 P.M. and Mon. all day. Car cruise on Sun. at 6 P.M. Fireworks on Mon. at 10 P.M. 724/643-4170 ext. 14

July 8-10 - Hopewell Parkfest 2011

Hopewell Community Park, 2500 Laird Avenue, Hopewell Township. Features live bands, food, booths, kid's games and more. All welcome/free admission. Fri., 6-11 P.M.; Sat. & Sun. 4-11 P.M. Fireworks Sat. & Sun. at 10:30 P.M. 724/378-1460

July 9-10 - Center Township Community Days

Fred Taddeo Municipal Park, 224 Center Grange Road, Center Township. Food booths, live entertainment, craft booths, free kiddie rides both days. Sun. at 10 P.M. features Zambelli fireworks. All ages/free. 5-10 P.M., both days. 724/774-0271

July 23 - 14th Annual New Brighton Car Cruise

Third Avenue, (from 8th to 13th Street), New Brighton. Hundreds of antique and classic cars. DJ's playing your favorite oldies throughout the day, plenty of food and 50/50 raffle. 2-8 P.M. (Rain or Shine). 724/847-5126

July 30 - Rochester's Hub Up In Smoke Car Cruise

Adams Street and Brighton Avenue, Rochester. Classic cars, food and beverage booths, DJ's will be lining the streets, and live bands perform throughout the day. Burnouts start at 6 P.M. Children's activities, face painting and more. Noon-9:30 P.M. www.hubupinsmoke.com

August 4-6 - 18th Annual Rusyn Food Festival

St. John Orthodox Parish Center, Fifth Street and Elm Road, Ambridge. Authentic celebration of Carpatho-Rusyn culture of Eastern Europe. Featuring food, dancing, arts, demonstrations and displays. Imported items for sale. Free admission. 11 A.M.-8 P.M. 412/749-0675

August 12-14 - San Rocco Festa

Lefty Cepull Field, Main Street, Aliquippa. A community-wide event featuring Italian food, music, dance, games, Carla the Clown, fireworks display and the traditional Italian doll dance. All ages. Admission \$1. Free for children, 12 and younger. 6-11 P.M., daily. Free parking. 724/378-6646

August 13 - Vicary Day at the Mansion

Vicary Mansion, 1235 Third Avenue, Freedom. Festivities will include historical crafters such as bobbin lace makers, quilters, tatters, wood carvers, spinners and weavers. Costumed docents will provide information about the historic 1826 Vicary Mansion and gardens. Family event. Donations accepted. 10 A.M.-5 P.M. 724/775-1848

August 19-21 - Beaver County River Regatta

Riverside Drive, Bridgewater. Water events, straight drags, jet ski shows, anything that floats race, lighted boat parade, antique boat parade and children's activities. Plus, plenty of food vendors, live entertainment, the Regatta Queen competition, wing eating contest and much more! Family event/free. Fri., 6-10 P.M.; Sat., 10 A.M.-10 P.M.; Sun., noon-10 P.M. Call 724/417-3069 or click www.beavercountyriverregatta.org

August 23-27 - Hookstown Fair

Hookstown Fairgrounds, 1198 State Route 168, Hookstown. Agricultural Fair includes livestock, vegetable and flower displays, quilts and baked goods. Features live entertainment daily, food, carnival rides, games, petting zoo and pony rides. Tractor Pulls, ATV/Motorcycle drag races, Rodeo, and Demolition Derby. Gates open Tues.-Fri. at 10 A.M.-11 P.M., Sat., at 9 A.M.-11 P.M. All ages. \$8 before 3 P.M.; \$10, after 3 P.M. Seniors free all day Wed. Call 724/573-4512 or click hookstownfair.com for more information.

August 30-Sept 3 - Big Knob Grange Fair

Big Knob Grange Fairgrounds, 336 Grange Road, New Sewickley Township. Agricultural, home economics, livestock, commercial exhibits. Beaver County Conservation District booth with maple syrup and more. Truck and tractor pulls, entertainment, midway rides, bingo, dinners, refreshments, livestock sale and auction, games and contests. All ages. Free admission. Fee for track events. Tues.-Fri., 4-11 P.M. Sat., noon-11 P.M. 724/774-7093



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Commissioners' Message



Beaver County Board of Commissioners From left to right: Joe Spanik, Tony Amadio, Chairman and Charles A. Camp



We would like to welcome all of you to the 6th edition of the Beaver County Magazine, The Bridge. Our 1st edition, back in 2007, set the stage for educating our residents about government, and how it works for the people of Beaver County.

Since that time, we have expanded The Bridge to deliver information about our culture, our history and who we are and who we have been as proud citizens of Beaver County. As an integral part of this education we have always chosen to infuse The Bridge with both historical and current affairs around the County and within our Human Services Departments. Collectively, they manage the health and welfare of our citizens. Our goal has always been, and will continue to be, one that presents County government in a fair and unbiased manner.

The developments and growth of the Office on Aging helps keep our baby boomers and 60 plus population engaged and active. The cutting edge educational and job training opportunities offered at our Community College continue to prepare our youth, and our adults, for the 21st Century

challenges of employment. Life situations that unfortunately, at times, victimize our youth, become the responsibility of Children and Youth Services, as it intervenes with life-changing procedures of protection that bring normalcy back into lives. Friendship Ridge, our iconic County Nursing Home, continues to strive to bring health and dignity to our senior citizen population. Beaver County Behavioral Health develops and perfects rehabilitative programs for our citizens, of all ages, who are negatively affected by unhealthy addictions and circumstances in life. And our Recreation and Tourism Department plans outstanding social functions of interest during all seasons of the year. We live in a County that is characterized by an attitude of caring, providing and genuine interest for the welfare of its citizens.

We, as your governing leaders, work continuously to maintain and create opportunities for industrial growth, economic development, higher education and suitable employment for our citizens. And we take this very personally as we strive to make Beaver County a unique and wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. We invite all of you to join us in sharing what it is to be a proud resident of Beaver County. We are all part of an inspiring past, an ever-developing present and a hopeful future. Enjoy this edition, our 6th, and we wish all of you an enjoyable, safe and happy summer season.

SUMMER 2011

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We want your feedback.

Please let us know what you have enjoyed about "The Bridge," and what you'd like to see in future issues. Drop us a note at the courthouse or e-mail us at TheBridge@beavercountypa.gov.

Cover Photo and Back Cover:
Photos taken from the Fort McIntosh Dedication on May 7, 2011

Photos by Emmanuel Panagiotakis



CYS asks: Can Foster Parenting be for YOU?

'Across our nation, there are two very unfortunate misperceptions about foster parenting: One is that it is somehow inferior to adoption, and the other is that long-term is the only kind of meaningful foster care.'

Foster parenting and adoption serve different functions. Fostering requires special qualities. It is not an alternative for people who aren't 'good enough' to adopt. In many ways foster care is more challenging than adoption: the children may be more troubled, especially at arrival (although it is definitely not true that foster children are all irreparably damaged or delinquents), working closely with birth families can be difficult, social services have parental authority, and there is the constant knowledge that you will probably lose the children to their birth families or another foster to adoptive family. These simply, are the facts that support national statistics.

But foster care covers a number of different ways of caring for children. Some might be possibilities for people who are not planning to adopt, for example, because of age. Some are possible ways for people who aren't yet ready to adopt to get experience with caring for children. Some types of foster care are very short-term; some offer specialized levels of care; some are longer-term, and some are designed to lead to adoption when and if the child's biological parents lose their parental rights. And in some states (New York, for example), those hoping to adopt through their state foster care system must first be licensed as foster parents.

Foster children who are taken or relinquished into foster care are among the most vulnerable and at-risk children in our society, and there is a critical shortage of qualified foster parents in the United States (and in other countries as well). Perhaps a better understanding of the types of foster care available will encourage more of us to find ways to bring these children into our lives.

(Adoption.com, an online educational forum, is to be credited for statistical information)

Across our County, the goal is to protect children from abuse and neglect, preserve families, and ensure that every child has a safe, permanent home.'

The goal of Beaver County Children & Youth Services involvement with families is to keep the family together, but a substitutive care service, such as foster parenting, may be an appropriate care option. There is an extraordinary need for foster parents of teen youth experiencing disruption in their homes. They simply need to be removed.

A New Style of Foster Parenting

Now that Allencrest has closed, CYS has adopted a new style of foster parenting. 'Shelter foster parenting' allows families to take teens for a minimum of 30 days, enabling the child to remain in a Beaver County placement home. Training classes are now forming for those that would like to become 'BFFs' – Beaver County Foster Families. This term describes who come from different ages, races, income levels and social levels. Yet they all share one common interest; the main reason they become foster parents is to 'make a difference in the lives of these children.'

Please visit our website at www.bccys.org to learn more about this life changing experience. If you live in Beaver County.....you can make a difference.....children are waiting for you.



Getting Your Money's Worth

Community Colleges Most Cost-Effective Way to Get an Education

By: Leslie Tennant, CCBC Director of Communications

Let's face it. College costs money and the cost of attending college is a serious and growing concern for both students and parents.

At the same time, employers are saying that many in the local workforce need additional training and the Department of Labor is projecting that upwards of 85% of the jobs being created today require education beyond high school.

Community colleges with an average annual cost of less than 36 percent of the average four-year college remain far and away the most economical choice.

Here in Beaver County, CCBC strives to make higher education affordable for every student by offering financial aid and scholarship programs to help them succeed.

Making the Grade Pays – Academic Excellence & Presidential Scholarships

CCBC offers two, full tuition scholarships to the best and brightest in the senior classes of all school districts in Beaver County.

The Academic Excellence Scholarship is awarded to all students in the top 10% of their graduating class at the time of application, and the Presidential Scholarship is awarded to the next top-ranked student who is not eligible for the Academic Excellence Scholarship and has a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

Both the Presidential and Academic Excellence Scholarships are two-year, full tuition scholarships covering tuition and fees for the fall and spring semesters. It is automatically renewed for the sophomore year, provided the scholar maintains full-time status and earns a minimum cumulative grade point average of

3.0 by the end of the second semester.

Scholarship applications are available in the guidance offices of all Beaver County high schools or by visiting the CCBC web site.

Make Your Lay off Pay off – Tuition Assistance Initiative

CCBC offers a Tuition Assistance Initiative for laid-off or displaced workers in Beaver County. The Initiative's goal is to aid unemployed individuals in Beaver County who find themselves in need of re-training to find a new job.

“Recently enacted legislation allows students who graduate with an Associate Degree to transfer to a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education university as a junior without loss of credit.

— Dr. Joe Forrester, President of CCBC

Eligible students will have all tuition costs waived; however, fees, textbooks, and supplies must be paid by the applicant.

To be eligible applicants must be residents of Beaver County who have either lost their jobs as a result of a business or industry plant closing or who have been laid-off, permanently or indefinitely, from a full-time position.

Qualified students will have the opportunity to enroll for a maximum of one semester in a credit program at CCBC on a tuition free basis. Afterwards, college staff will assist students in an attempt to secure the necessary financial aid to complete their education.

Continued on page 6



Bridge Dedication

Beaver County Commissioners cut the ribbon at the new Brush Creek Park Bridge on May 10, 2011.

Photo by Emmanuel Panagiotakis

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The Efficiency of the County Clerk of Courts

So much of what we are as a nation, and a society, dates back to our 'old world' origins. And although our forefathers gleaned what they knew were the best features for a free society, the laws and government, that protect our freedom, was the focal point in their vision of America. As we explore the duties of the Clerk of Courts Office of our County, make no mistake in knowing that the responsibilities of this office are the spine of what guarantees us our protected freedom in society.

An Interesting History

The Clerk of the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Oyer and Terminer (to hear and determine) has existed in Pennsylvania since the first organization of English government in colonial America. A change in the Pennsylvania Constitution consolidated all the various courts into the Court of Common Pleas with the clerk now being known as the Clerk of Courts.

Most duties performed by other row officers today were originally responsibilities that were under the jurisdiction of the early clerks. For example, duties such as recording judgments, executions, attachments and maintaining naturalization records are now performed by the Prothonotary; recording of deeds and surveys of town plots, and commissions granted, are now the responsibility of the Recorder of Deed; and the entering of wills or administration fall with the duties of the Register of Wills.

In addition to those records, many other types of records that are now obsolete, were at one time preserved by the clerks. Some of the more interesting ones were:

Bolter and Baker Brandmarks (1724) were records of trademarks of bolters, bakers and flour millers containing the date of registry, copy of the mark and name of the owner.

List of Slave-Owners (1780-88 and after) were recorded with names of all persons in the County who owned slaves. Each list contained the owner's name and also the name, age, sex and length of servitude for each slave in possession.

Peddler's Bonds (1830) were bonds which were annually posted by every hawker and peddler before the court would grant a license.

Transient Medical Practitioners (1877-1911) who opened a transient medical office with the County were obliged to secure a license from the Clerk of Courts after furnishing a diploma from a chartered medical school or a record of the places where practice occurred. (Early medicine men?)

Stallion Certificates (1893-1911) were certificates indicating the name and age of the stallion, date foaled, description and pedigree plus owner information.

Motor Vehicle Affidavits (1919-1923) included registration of second-hand autos sold or transferred within the various townships of the County, and contained names and addresses of the vendor and vendee.

The one enduring responsibility of the Clerk has been custodian of the criminal court records from the early handwritten dockets (list of cases) to the evolution of the present day technological records that are maintained. In January, 2006, the last of the 67 counties went live and have been using the Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS) to facilitate the transfer of information throughout the Commonwealth. The administrative Of-

fice of Pennsylvania Courts is constantly updating and creating new venues to compile information for other state agencies, through the use of CPCMS. Were it not for the diligent work of the Clerk of Courts, these processes would not be possible.

Update: 21st Century

The responsibilities of the Clerk of Courts Office have grown since this earlier time, and with that growth is included and efficient and articulate detail to accuracy.

Judy R. Enslen has served Beaver County as Clerk of Courts since January, 1988. Prior to that, Judy served the County as Assistant Court Administrator and Chief Deputy Clerk of Court. She is a past President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Prothonotaries' and Clerks of Courts. Currently she is Chairperson of the Criminal Manual Committee, responsible for creating procedural instructions for Clerks of Courts throughout the Commonwealth.



Judy R. Enslen

Types of Filing Maintained by the Clerk of Courts Office

- All felony and misdemeanor cases which been held or waived in court
- Misdemeanor 3 cases sentenced by a Magisterial District Judge
- All motions, petitions and court orders filed in a criminal case
- Appeals from Summary Conviction from a Magisterial District Judge
- Applications and renewal of private detective licenses
- Road, liquor and municipal matters
- Constable and Deputy Constable Oaths of Office, appointments and bonds
- Election appointments such as Majority and Minority Inspectors of Elections
- Tax Collector Bonds and Tax Collector reports
- Annual Audit Reports of municipalities
- Miscellaneous criminal matters such as forfeiture of confiscated property
- Records from 1802 to present
- Collection and disbursement of all court fines, court costs and restitution

Clerk of Courts Services

- Record, distribute, scan and file every document of a criminal case
- Processing bail bonds, bail pieces, petitions for expungement of records, renewal of private detective licenses and accompanying fingerprint cards
- Collection of all court imposed fines, costs, restitution and distributing of those funds to the County, the Commonwealth, municipalities and restitution to crime victims

Continued on page 6



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The Efficiency of the County

Clerk of Courts

Continued from page 5

- Reviewing compliance account records for the Department of Public Welfare on decisions for public assistance
- Reviewing accounting records in regards to collection agencies for non-payment
- Post and distribute a list of all Constables eligible to perform judicial duties
- Assist the public in any manner possible
- Sampling of Reports Completed by the Office
- Notify the DOT of every conviction or acquittal related to a motor vehicle offense and certain drug offenses
- Prepare prison commitments to the Beaver County Jail and the Department of Corrections
- Monthly reports to the Department of Revenue, Treasurer's Office and Controller's Office
- Prepare and distribute bench warrants, orders for transfer of prisoners and bail bonds
- Compile and prepare all records in which an appeal to Superior Court, Supreme Court, or Commonwealth Court has been filed, and forward that record to the Appellate Court
- Request suspension of operating privilege for nonpayment of court imposed fines
- Conduct arraignments and assist the Court of Common Pleas

All records maintained in the Clerk of Courts Office are public records except when specifically precluded by law, such as juvenile and child victim records. Docket entries of each criminal case file can be accessed through Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System, <http://ujportal.pacourts.us>, free of charge. For a small user fee, users can access 'infocon' through the Clerk of Courts website and view actual filed documents.

The Commissioners would like to thank the courteous, efficient and conscientious staff of the Clerk of Courts Office – they are an asset to our County.

Getting Your Money's Worth

Community Colleges Most Cost-Effective Way to Get an Education

Continued from page 3

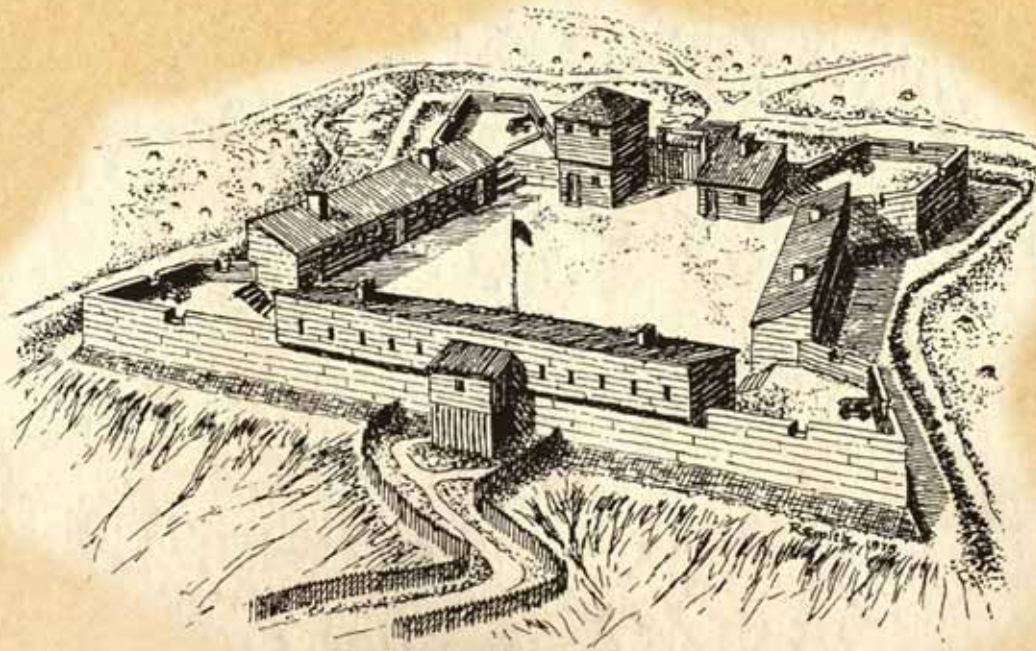
Flat Tuition Rate Encourages More Students to Complete Associate Degree

In an effort to encourage full-time students to complete their studies within two years, the College has adopted a flat tuition rate (effective Fall 2011) for students taking between 12-18 credits per semester.

For full-time students, tuition will be at a single rate of \$1,425 for any Beaver County resident taking between 12 and 18 credits per semester.

"The landscape for students planning to transfer is changing dramatically," indicated Dr. Joe Forrester, President of the College. "Recently enacted legislation allows students who graduate with an Associate Degree to transfer to a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education university as a junior without loss of credit. We want to see more of our students taking advantage of this opportunity."

The pay-off is clear. CCBC is a sound investment for students and parents in Beaver County. For more information, visit www.ccbc.edu/FinancialAid.



Beaver's Fort McIntosh – 'A Unique Place in American History'

On Saturday, May 7, 2011, the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation dedicated the Fort McIntosh Monument, at a very special site in Beaver, our County seat – the following historical excerpt appeared in the program on dedication day.

Fort McIntosh was built on this site in the autumn of 1778 by General Lachian McIntosh, Commander of the Western Continental Army under General George Washington. The fort had two purposes: To defend the territory northwest of the Ohio River, and to become the first in a chain of forts intended to dislodge the British from their stronghold at Fort Detroit. This was important because the British were supporting the Indians who occupied these lands and who were marauding the American settlers west of the Allegheny Mountains. Immediately after the completion of this fort, McIntosh proceeded west to the banks of the Tuscarawas River in Ohio, and built Fort Laurens, planned to become the second for in the chain. The Fort McIntosh site was recovered and redefined by an archaeological study completed in 1978 by the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation.

1st American Regiment

Following the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783, the Continental Army was soon disbanded, which left the western frontier unguarded and subject to many deadly raids upon settlers by the Indians. To cope with this serious problem, the Congress

authorized the formation of a small military force to help guard the western frontier and certain other military installations. This was undertaken in 1784 with the appointments of Col. Josiah Harmar, who was to raise a standing army of up to 700 troops for this purpose. By the end of the year, about half the number had been enlisted, and most of these were assigned to Fort McIntosh, to provide security for an upcoming Treaty congregation with the Indians, which took place in January, 1785. Col Harmar named this the First American Regiment, now known as the President's Guard, also respectfully referred to as the Old Guard Regiment.

The Bridge and the County Commissioners wish to acknowledge Bob Smith for this historical contribution. For many years Bob Smith has been actively associated with the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation in many capacities, including research, writing, illustration, program presentations and administration. He is co-author of the book 'Beaver Town – 2002,' and for many years wrote 'Foundations,' the periodic newsletter of the Heritage Foundation. He is a retired Communication Director of the Michael Baker Corporation and former Executive Director of the Beaver County Educational Trust.



BCOA New 'Center at the Mall' for Boomers and Beyond

The aging population is growing rapidly and the baby boomers are accelerating this growth. There is no disputing this fact. The Beaver County Office on Aging wants aging to mean health, vitality and well-being. So on December 13, 2010, BCOA cemented this commitment to our Baby Boomers and Beyond with the opening of its fifth senior center site in the County, the Center at the Mall, located in the Beaver Valley Mall in Center Township.

Since 1974, Lutheran Services Society has been managing senior center locations in our County, including the Monaca site which closed to make way for the new Center at the Mall. Considering the high level of success and participation at LSS sites, it is no surprise that Lutheran Services has been selected to manage this new, state-of-the-art facility. Registering over 2,000 senior participants in just the first three months, this is exciting, so let's take a look at the amenities this new Center offers.

Interested in fitness? The Center is equipped with exercise and fitness machines and with a wide range of exercise classes prepared to meet the needs of all levels of senior wellness. Instructors are on hand to provide individual attention and to teach classes like yoga, zumba and cardio. How about technology? The Center offers a computer lab and classes for those interested in developing or sharpening their skills at the keyboard. The Computer Center is open during regular center hours for anyone who wants to use the computers and Wi-Fi is available throughout the Center at the Mall. Do you want to be social? The Center has a pool table, juke box, live bands and many other forms of individual and group recreation, including different levels of dance classes, preparing you for evening dances. Are you artsy? The Center has scheduled arts and crafts classes encouraging creativity and self-expression. How about a massage? The Center can schedule massage therapy, by appointment, where

trained therapists can relax and rejuvenate your body. And, of course, the Center has a superb dining room with daily meal service, and well planned group travel opportunities. Well, what do you think? Country Club or Senior Center? You decide. But like the Pennsylvania Lottery says, 'you have to play to win.' You really must see it to believe it!

The Center at the Mall website, www.LSSWPA.org, has a complete listing of the daily and monthly activities, as well as luncheon menus. The Center operates six days a week during the following hours: Monday, 7:30 AM-7:00 PM, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7:30 AM-8:00 PM, Friday, 7:30 AM-4:00 PM, Saturday, 7:30 AM-4:00 PM. Although some services do require a fee, there are no membership fees to join the Center. Staff at the Center includes Director Sharon Keller, Manager Petra McMahan. Additionally, the Center is actively recruiting volunteers to work in all phases of operations, from helping to serve lunches to working in the state-of-the-art fitness plaza. Volunteers are also being recruited to teach computer and art classes. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Sharon or Petra at the Center at 724-728-1422.

The Beaver County Board of Commissioners wishes to extend congratulations to the Beaver County Office on Aging for its efforts to create the Center at the Mall, at 284 Beaver Valley Mall.

According to its website, the mission of the Beaver County Office on Aging is 'committed to identifying the diverse needs of our aging population, providing quality services, preserving the dignity of the individual, and advocating for older persons' right.' Since its inception, the Office on Aging has achieved this mission by setting and attaining goals that enhance the lives of Beaver County citizens, aged 60 and beyond. Go and see what that really means by visiting the Center at the Mall.

Friendship Ridge and Premier Healthcare Resources

'Forging a Solid, Professional, Valuable Relationship'

With the hiring of a new, permanent Director, and the renewal of a second, five year contract, Friendship Ridge (the Ridge) and Premier Healthcare Resources (PHCR) have cemented an ongoing relationship, securing great leadership for the Ridge, as well as great savings for the County. The original contract with PHCR, providing complete medical services for the County nursing home began on January 1, 2005, with the second contract extending their services to December 31, 2015. Prior to 2005, Heritage Valley held the contract providing medical services to the Ridge. The County Commissioners and PHCR feel they have exceeded expectations bringing on new Director, Dr. Charles C. Rhoads, replacing interim Director, John Belko.

Getting to know Dr. Rhoads

Dr. Charles C. Rhoads, MD, MBA, MS, relocated to Allegheny County, from Delaware County, in September 2003 with his wife and two children. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Saint Joseph's University, and completed his medical education at the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara in Mexico. His Masters Degrees (MS in Long Term Care and MBA) are from Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania. He obtained his Nursing Home Administrator's license in 1991. Concurrently, he is an adjunct faculty member at both the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University.

Dr. Rhoads brings to the position over 20 years of health-care management experience, including his recent service as the Commandment of the Southwestern Veteran's Center in Pittsburgh, a 236 bed, skilled nursing unit. Additionally, he has served in the areas of long-term care, brain injury and developmental disabilities. His positions have included Administrator, Director of Operations and Director of Clinical Services. These positions have all been located in the Philadelphia area.

In addition to Dr. Rhoads, Mike Kessler of PHCR, has been brought on as the Chief Financial Officer of the Ridge. Mr. Kessler is credentialed as a Certified Public Accountant.

What About PHCR?

There are compelling reasons after five years of medical management of the Ridge, that PHCR has received a second five year contract – compelling, but not at all complex. Simply, PHCR is a model of medical professionalism and financial efficiency equaling cost savings for the County. The County and PHCR share this mutual goal as it relates to the comprehensive operation of the Ridge. A compilation of some of the most vital services provided by PHCR (listed below)

Continued on page13

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Beautifying the streets of New Brighton.

Beaver County Community Development Program 'Purpose, focus impacts so much in our County'

On a back street in Beaver Falls is an unassuming, red brick one story structure, that to some may appear to be a modest municipal library. Although the structure at 1013 8th Avenue is no library, it does share at least one obvious quality with a library – it is a powerhouse of knowledge and activity, fueling uncountable projects across our County. Instead of books, within its walls are housed nine community development professionals – who are the 'shakers and movers' of nearly every community modification and improvement in Beaver County. It is difficult to confine the explanation of their impact to a few paragraphs in this publication, but we would like to briefly introduce you to the scope of their involvement across our County. Keep in mind that condensing the significance of the Beaver County Community Development Program, is like writing a synopsis of Margaret Mitchell's 'GWTW' – in just a page or two.

Defining the Programs

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Established in 1975, by the U.S. Department of Urban Development (HUD), this grant is considered an 'entitlement' and is awarded to eligible communities each year. The annual grant amounts are actually determined by demographic criteria including population, conditions of housing and income levels. Within this program, the following eligibilities outline some of the far reaching County policies of Beaver County Community Development.

Public Facilities and Improvements

CDBG funds are requested yearly by County municipalities, organizations and other entities to address needed repairs, replacements, or construction of public facilities. Among them are requests for water lines, sewer lines, roadways and sidewalks – the infrastructure of any community. Other activities include renovation or construction of building sites for public use such as libraries, fire houses and parks. CDBG funds are allocated to many towns and municipalities to help meet the needs of low-income residents.

Demolition

Over 500 properties (\$2.6 million) have been demolished utilizing CDBG funds. The program provides for the elimination of havens for illegal individuals, along with the elimination of unsafe, unhealthy areas in neighborhoods. The demolition program restores beauty to areas that were once unsightly.

Emergency Home Improvement

Emergency Home Improvement focuses on addressing emergency needs of low income homeowners in an effort to eliminate code violations. Qualifying participants receive home repairs and improvements, such as furnace and water heater replacement; installation of water, gas and sewer lines; installation or repair of wells; removal of physical barriers for those with disabilities. Eligibility for support is evaluated on an individual basis of need for low income homeowners.

Rehabilitation and Preservation

Among the many commercial buildings receiving funds within this category, public libraries may be one of the most recognizable, addressing the local needs of a community. Municipal libraries in New Brighton, Freedom, Beaver Falls, Beaver, Midland, Aliquippa, Ambridge and Monaca have all received preservation funds. Other County historical and recreational facilities receiving funds have been Vicary House, a park near Buttermilk Falls and Old Economy in Ambridge.

Downtown Revitalization

Committed to downtown revitalization, the Community Development Program funds ten County central business districts. As a part of this, the Main Street Network provides staff support and strengthens local revitalization organizations in Aliquippa, Ambridge, Beaver, Beaver Falls, Bridgewater, Freedom, Midland, Monaca, New Brighton and Rochester. Economic development and planning activities that impact job creation and retention for low income individuals are also funded. The funding also provides planning services for municipalities for comprehensive plans, sewer mapping and riverfront development. There also exist funds for home investment partnerships requiring a low percentage match to provide additional, affordable housing to low income households, and emergency shelter which provide housing and services to the homeless.

The Specifics of County Improvement

Definitions are good and create a foundation for understanding, but what are some of the other interesting County examples of improvement? They exist County wide and are funded under several federal funding programs. The County is a direct entitlement community for HUD that the larger portion of the funds received for the following improvements were one-time funds, meaning that certain funds are allocated on a non-competitive basis. But, keep in mind award, originating primarily from federal stimulus funds. The following is an explanation of the County's plan for the use of the funds.

The Federal Community Development Block Grant, awarded at \$1,043,769, has funded Save-A-Lot Grocery Store in downtown Beaver Falls, helping to create this walkable, neighborhood store. Funds were also used to complete a \$2,500,000 streetscape project on Midland Avenue in Midland. The activity included sidewalks, lighting, utility relocation, accessible sidewalk ramping and decorative landscaping and fencing.

With this funding source, a completed reconstruction of the 14th Street roadway in Ambridge was completed, and acquisition and demolition of blighted structures in the revitalization area of Aliquippa were also completed.

The Federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, awarded at \$1,596,719, are funds that must be used to prevent homelessness and secure affordable and permanent housing for homeless persons. With this, Community Development has funded (County wide) such activities as improved housing location, case management, rental and utility assistance, motel vouchers, legal services and homeless management data collection. Additionally, a fully-staffed office has been established on 7th Street in Beaver Falls in order to meet all goals pertaining to homelessness.



The State Community Services Block Grant, awarded at \$629,954, is actually federal, but filtered through the state to community action agencies. Funds are administered through the Community Development Program, and support anti-poverty operations for non-profit agencies, ten of which successfully completed projects while creating and retaining over 23 full-time jobs. They include BCRC, Big Brother/Big Sisters, Contact Beaver Valley, Franklin Center, Habitat for Humanity, Homemaker/Home Health, Renaissance III 2000, Tiger Pause Youth Ministries, T.R.A.I.L.S. Ministry and the Women's Center. The State Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, awarded at \$279,163, has used the funds to complement the similar federal activities listed above.

The State Neighborhood Stabilization Program, awarded \$1,292,682, was the first of the 'recovery' programs started as a response to the nations foreclosure crises. The County is funding the Housing Authority and Habitat for Humanity to purchase, and either rehabilitate or construct ten new housing units for eventual purchase by qualifying buyers.

So, indeed, it is evident that the Community Development Program of Beaver County has established itself as a solid foundation for the continued support of economically disadvantaged citizens and municipalities, while simultaneously removing barriers that may block growth and improvement. For more information on the Community Development Program, or to complete an application for assistance, please visit their website at www.beavercountypa.gov/publicservices/communitydevelopment or by telephone at 724-847-3889.

County 911 Center *Always on the Cusp*

In a previous edition, when we introduced the new 911 Emergency Services Center, located in Ambridge, what we really introduced was a technologically advanced facility that was capable of handling just about any emergency that could befall our County. The fort-like, highly secure 'building within a building' design houses the most contemporary and affective emergency security technology available in the United States. And although this technology may appear to serve a sprawling urban center, it exists for the exclusive safety of Beaver County.

But as time moves on, so do advancements in everything, and this facility is certainly no exception. The 18,000 square-foot, \$18 million dollar center has recently been upgraded with the installation of a new Pelco Digital Sentry video security platform. "One of the big things we're seeing right now, since this building has been in operation, is the ability to plug into other camera systems – not only with our systems here but reaching out to other sites," says Wes Hill, the county's emergency services director. "It's one step above regular security because ours is more advanced where we can plug into other systems too."

The system has already proved to be invaluable by establishing the ability for the Center to have surveillance on bridges, which allows the first responders to eye our waterways. The compatibility of the system, merged with the facility's existing eight Sarix IX30 3-megapixel cameras for exterior views and 25 analog cameras for interior views, creates an overall surveillance ability that is a step above regular security, making County security second to none.

The Pelco System is presently linked to the access control system, which includes visitor management, and allows the viewing of any unusual events. It interfaces with the facility's internal cable television distribution system, and affects internally generated channels. There exists a wireless switching system to pull all the information together for the eight 65-inch LCD televisions located in the dispatch center. According to Wes Hill, this capability of plugging into other systems is a thing of the future. Simply stated, it does not just monitor – it gets incident information to first responders. And it has already assisted police in verifying a suspect involved in an attack with a weapon, and, investigate a car crash.

Wes Hill states the facility, and this new installation, is open for anyone to come and view. Our high-tech 911 facility was developed under the guidance of Mr. Hill, who worked with technology integrators George M. Brobeck Company and Intertech Security LLC on this upgraded project. As a County, we appreciate the dedication of these individuals as they continually upgrade the security of our Emergency Services Center. They allow the citizens of Beaver County to always get a good night's sleep.



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Continued from page 9

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- Assure Nursing Home compliance for participation in all applicable health programs
- Maintain and strive for improvement in the quality of services
- Assure the enforcement and compliance of all state rules and regulation policies and procedures
- Provide a Quality Control for all departments
- Maintain prompt and accurate reports to the PA Department of Health
- Consult with the County concerning data-processing, hardware or software, architectural or engineering work
- Perform an annual staff satisfaction survey
- Consult the County on all risk management and liability issues

Although this is a partial, but somewhat understandable list of responsibilities, the continued efficiency and caring operation of the Ridge is in the solid, professional hands of PHCR. And we in Beaver County, who appreciate and enjoy talking about the Ridge (at times with proud repetition), are satisfied.

PHCR was able to put a dollar amount on a huge savings that will be realized early in the new contract. Due to the fact that

PHCR operates an on-site dialysis clinic at the Ridge, the County will see a patient transportation savings, annually, of \$250,000. The Commissioners take pride in sharing this information about one of the iconic institutions of our County, Friendship Ridge.



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-Mary



Beaver County's 'Geographical Information System'

The What's and Why's of a GIS

With the recent implementation of the Geographical Information System in Beaver County, we presumably are asking ourselves one question. Let's be honest and admit that this question is most likely, 'What is a GIS, in understandable terms?' Essentially, it is a computer accessible and satellite based technology system that informs and visually connects us to the relative position of things on the earth's surface. From a perspective, the system integrates computer hardware, software, and data for the purpose of capturing, managing, analyzing and displaying information. Actually, the term geospatial, rather than geographical, better defines what the system is able to do. When we look at things (images) geospatially, we gain a visual understanding of how they relate to each other geographically. It's actually viewing an image from one perch, as opposed to seeing the same image from another perch. An example of this would be the viewing of the Shippingport Nuclear Energy Plant from the Beaver County Courthouse, and then comparing that view of the Shippingport as it is seen from the Pittsburgh International Airport. Get the picture? This is primarily why the term geospatial better defines the function of a GIS. The System, additionally, enables the user to view and interpret data in many ways, revealing patterns or relationships and trends in the forms of maps, charts and various reports.

Understanding this leads us to the obvious question of, 'Why should we have it?' A GIS is commonly used to map the locations of images in an area; in our case,

Beaver County. It highlights topographical features, boundaries, parcels of land and landmarks. It is as exact as locating an individual's house or can be used, depending on the amount of data entered, to locate where a person may be just by tracking cell phone use. This can assist offices such as the Sheriff and District Attorney in locating criminals and fugitives or by Emergency Services who are the first responders in emergency situations.

On a more personal level, it may also be used to assist businesses interested to locate in Beaver County, by enabling them to locate the best area to establish a business. It can provide tax information, locations of highways, railways, waterways, utility access and land features. This can be achieved at the touch of a keypad. It also gives users the ability to zoom into an area to view the various attributes of a specific area of interest within Beaver County.

Under the direction of the Commissioners and with the cooperation of the departments of Emergency Services, Planning Commission, Tax Assessment and Information Technology, we have a Geographical Information System that currently developing into a cutting edge tool for just about anyone requiring information. A website has been developed with the technical support of Michael Baker Corporation. The Commissioners believe this will enable any individual to view information and subscribe to this service. Information about the website will be forthcoming later this summer.

Myrtle Beach... Virginia Beach... NO WAY 'Try Bradys Run Beach'

They may be popular, and even some fun, but they're a long way to go, and expensive too. For those of you headed in the direction of these, or other East Coast getaways this summer, have a safe and pleasant time – and don't forget your wallet. But thanks to the County, and the Commissioners, we do have something right here that is fun, close, safe and we guarantee will be very pleasant...Bradys Run Swimming and Beach area.

During the first part of June the County completed major refurbishing to this local getaway. New 'toe wiggling' sand was brought in to expand a couple hundred feet of beach area. Because of the major lake improvement project of 2010, features along the shore line were put back into a scenic order. The landscaping in the area of the beach has been replanted to create a picturesque, resort-like appearance. And of course, the water has been tested for safe bathing for the entire family. So for those of you, for whatever reason, who are not planning to leave the County this summer to hit the beach, no need to feel you'll miss any of the beach action. With no tide changes, you can put your blanket down once and never have to move it. So on any sunny day, pack a lunch and some sunscreen and steer the car for the beach right here in Beaver County. Oh, by the way, boogie boards and wallets are always optional.



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Life is full of opportunities, challenges, and, at times, crises that occur when least expected. Often times life's unpredictable events and sudden tragedies can trigger an emotional crisis that seems unmanageable and impossible to overcome. However, it doesn't have to be this way. With help and guidance, tragedy can actually make a person stronger.

Heritage Valley Health System's Staunton Clinic in Rochester offers a number of programs to assist people in handling a crisis, start a successful recovery process and emerge emotionally stronger with a positive outlook on the future. The Beaver County Commissioners have shown compassionate leadership in their support of the Beaver County Behavioral Health Program who has funded the existing Crisis Service over the years.

Most recently, the Heritage Valley Beaver Foundation funded a new community crisis service counseling program that was initiated last fall.

"The Foundations' recent support helped us add a new counseling position to our existing Crisis Program in Rochester," said Bob Fisher, administrator of clinical services at Heritage Valley Staunton Clinic. "The new counselor's role is to help people build a bridge of recovery from tragedy to present day. In the few months he has been with us, he's been able to play a critical role in helping people identify their inner strength and provide motivation to help them get their lives back on track."

Staunton Clinic Crisis Intervention Services are contracted through Beaver County Behavioral Health and are available for persons of all ages, whether they have health insurance or not. A skilled behavioral health professional is available to assist individuals requiring immediate intervention twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. Within the program a variety of services including telephone, walk-in and mobile crisis assessment are offered.

Telephone Services

The crisis hotline at Staunton Clinic is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week by calling 724-775-5208 or 1-800-400-6180.



Walk-in Crisis Assessments

This face-to-face encounter enables the clinician to assess the individual's presenting problem, provide short-term crisis intervention counseling and refer to a variety of services as needed. These assessments are provided from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily at the Staunton Clinic Rochester facility located at 176 Virginia Avenue in Rochester.

Mobile Crisis Services.

These crisis services go to the individual, rather than requiring that the individual come to the Staunton Clinic facility. This assures greater safety and proactive intervention for the individual and prevents further decline in the person's recovery.

"Heritage Valley Staunton Clinic has provided behavioral health services to Beaver County for many years," added Mr. Fisher. "In that time, we've seen great resiliency in the people who live here and have been privileged to help many of them."

For more information on Heritage Valley Staunton Clinic, go to www.heritagevalley.org.

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-Rob Bell-Beaver Falls Football

Over the past 6 months training with Rick I have become stronger physically and mentally. Rick also taught me that when your mind is telling you that you can't do it, your body is capable of doing more. I would HIGHLY recommend Daman's Strength Training to anyone.

-Skyler Cron Central Valley Football



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